THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The news-items under reference is a report on the "Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996" which was part of the omnibus Authorization Bill passed by the US Congress and signed by the US President on September 30, 1996 from which date it comes into force. It is reported that the process of framing rules for implementation of this Act is still underway. The Law applies to all foreign nationals staying in the US beyond periods authorized in their non-immigrant visa. The Law does not target Indians specifically and those stating in the US legally are not affected by the law.

(d) Government are alert to all development having implications for Indian citizens abroad, including in the US.

Manuscripts on Siddha

2257. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that manuscripts on "Siddha" system written in Tamil had been taken away by Germans about 300 years ago from Tamil Nadu and kept in Martin Luther University in Germany;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take immediate action to retrieve those Tamil manuscripts for use in our country; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected. It will be laid on the table of the Sabha as soon as available.

Re-registration and Re-certification of Doctors

2258. Lt. Gen. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to enact legislation to take re-registration and re-certification of doctors mandatory every five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to change the syllabus of Under-graduate and Post-graduate courses to improve the standards of medical education; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The Committee on Sub-ordinate Legislation (10th Lok Sabha) in its 13th Report had recommended that the Central Government/Medical Council of India should prescribe for a compulsory renewal of registration by doctors every five years. The Committee was informed that there will be administrative difficulties in the renewal of registration of about 4.5 lakh practitioners all over the country, particularly, where Medical Council of India (MCI) does not have adequate *wherewithal* and the State Medical Councils are also not fully geared up to undertake this responsibility. However, the modalities of meeting this requirement is being examined by the M.C.I.

(c) and (d) The Medical Council of India Recommendations on Graduate Medical Education containing curriculum of M.B.B.S. course has been approved by Central Government as a regulation under Section 33 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and this has been conveyed to M.C.I. on 4th March, 1997. The detailed syllabus for post-graduate courses on each subject is prepared by the Universities.

Improvement in Road Sector

2259. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the delay in issuing guidelines for private enterprises has slowed down investment in road sector;

(b) wherther the Government have been urged to finance the national highway projects and also that efforts should be made to make more funds available through alternative means;

(c) whether the Ministry had earlier devised prolonged strategy i.e. augmenting Central Road Fund, private sector participation and enhancement of vehicle registration fee;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether all these schemes have not been implemented so far, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the road sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) A Revised Resolution for augmenting the Central Road Fund has been passed by the two Houses of Parliament in the year 1988. However, its implementation is still under the consideration of the Government. As regards private sector participation, the Government has recently approved guidelines for taking projects under BOT to attract private investments in the

road sector. There is no long term strategy for augmentation of vehicle registration fee.

(f) Government has recently taken steps for speedy implementation of National Highway Projects by simplifying the land acquisition procedure and the exemption of clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forest for the improvement of existing National Highways.

U.S. Policy on Kashmir

2260. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent statement of the Assistant Secretary of State Ms. Robin Raphel that the elections in Jammu & Kashmir have not resolved the issue and that Kashmir remains a disputed territory for the U.S. Government;

(b) if so, whether her statement reflect U.S. policy on Kashmir; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Goverment thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Government have seen press reports regarding remarks on elections in Jammu & Kashmir reportedly made by US Assistant Secretary Robin Raphel in her interaction with the press during her visit to India in February 1997. This subject was not discussed in the official meetings during the visit.

(c) Government of India has made it clear that Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India. This position is well known to the US Government.

Foreign Trips by Prime Minister

2261. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :
SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign trips undertaken by the Prime Minister since the assumed office and the purpose of these trips;

(b) the details of the non-official persons who accompanied him during these trips;

(c) the total expenditure, if any incurred by the Government on those non-official persons;

(d) whether these expenses have been recovered; and

(e) if so, the head of account under which the money was paid in the first instance?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) The foreign trips undertaken by the Prime Minister since he assumed office are listed below.The purpose of each trip is also indicated.

(1) Zimbabwe - for the G-15 Summit held in Harare

(2) Italy - for the World Food Summit held in Rome

(3) Bangladesh - Bilateral Visit

(4) Switzerland - for the World Economic Forum meeting held in Davos

(5) Mauritius - Bilateral Visit

(b) On all the tours listed above, the Prime Minister was accompanied by members of the official delegation, security personnel and other officials as well as representatives of the media. Smt. Deve Gowda accompanied him on the visits to Harare, Rome and Davos and Mauritius. Members of the PM's family also accompanied him on the visits to Harare and Rome.

(c) to (e) Expenses on the members of the Prime Minister's family and the non-official media were directly settled by the persons concerned. Government did not incur any expenditure on non-official persons.

Facilities to Ex-Servicemen

2262. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ex-servicemen who are re-employed in Central Government jobs after their retirement are given any special opportunity to post them in their home States;

(b) if not, whether keeping in view of various difficulties being faced by them, the Government propose to issue guidelines for their choice transfers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) Ex-Servicemen who seek re-employment in the Defence Services after their retirement are to the extent possible posted at the places of their choice by the respective Service Headquarters. However, ex-Servicemen who are re-employed in other Departments of Central Government are governed by the terms and conditions of Service as applicable to civilian employees of those Departments and, therefore, are treated at par with other employees in their cadre in the matter of postings and transfers.